SPECIAL FEATURE
JUDITH MASSA

JULY 17, 1978

ON STAGE: BARRY MANILOW

ANNCR: THE LOCAL WASHINGTON SCENE, THIS SUMMER, IS WELCOMING MANY OF THIS COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING POPULAR MUSICAL ARTISTS. A FEW DAYS AGO, THE MULTI-TALENTED MUSICIAN AND SINGER, BARRY MANILOW, WAS ON STAGE AT THE MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. AND HERE IS ---------- TO TELL US ABOUT IT.

TAPE: CUT ONE - I WRITE THE SONGS (TOTAL TIME 4:08 -- USE AT WILL)

VOICE: AS THE CURTAIN WENT UP THE OVERFLOWING, EXPECTANT AUDIENCE OF 10,000 PEOPLE WERE GREETED BY THE SIGHT OF A STARK WHITE PIANO SPOTLIGHTED AGAINST A CONTRASTING BACKDROP DEPICTING THE EVENING SKYLINE OF BARRY MANILOW'S HOMETOWN, NEW YORK CITY. "LADY FLASH," BARRY'S BACKUP FEMALE TRIO WHO BOTH SING AND DANCE, GLIDED EFFORTHLESSLY ON STAGE AND BEGAN THE DANCING AND CLAPPING THAT THEY KEPT UP THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE. THE CROWD CAME TO ITS FEET WITH A ROAR AS THE TALL, GANGLY FIGURE OF BARRY MANILOW APPEARED, DRESSED IN WHITE TROUSERS AND A BLUE-AND-WHITE MILITARY-LIKE JACKET, A COMBINATION ACCENTUATING HIS SLIMNESS. UPON SITTING DOWN AT THE PIANO TO PLAY AND SING, THE LANKY YOUNG MAN WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A MUSICAL ARTISAN. AND HE SHOWED WHY HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE TOP MUSICAL ARTISTS IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY, NOTED FOR STIRRING UPTEMPO RHYTHMS AND SOARING ROMANTIC BALLADS.

TAPE: CUT TWO - MEDLEY: MANDY,COULD IT BE MAGIC (TOTAL TIME 4:01 USE AT WILL) #OPTIONAL#

VOICE: BARRY BEGAN HIS MUSICAL CAREER IN BROOKLYN (A PART OF NEW YORK CITY), PLAYING ACCORDION AND PIANO. HE SUBSEQUENTLY STUDIED AT THE NEW YORK COLLEGE OF MUSIC, AND BECAME A KIND OF "MUSICAL HANDYMAN", DOING WRITING, PRODUCING AND SINGING CHORES, ALL THE WHILE LEARNING THE "INS AND OUTS" OF THE COMPLEX MUSIC INDUSTRY. AFTER SERVING AS MUSICAL DIRECTOR FOR SINGER BETTE MIDLER, BARRY DECIDED TO GO SOLO IN 1974. A SUCCESSION OF TOP-SELLING SINGLES FOLLOWED, INCLUDING "MANDY" (WHICH WE JUST HEARD), "IT'S A MIRACLE", "I WRITE THE SONGS", "DAYBREAK", "CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU" AND "EVEN NOW". AT HIS RECENT PERFORMANCE, BARRY SANG MANY OF THESE HITS, AS WELL AS A DROLL MEDLEY OF RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMERCIALS WHICH HE HAD WRITTEN AND SUNG IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS CAREER. BUT THE SONG WHICH REALLY "BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE" WAS HIS CURRENT HIT "COPACABANA". ESPECIALLY DRESSED FOR THIS NUMBER IN A SILVERY OUTFIT WITH FRILLY "RHUMBA" SLEEVES, TYPICAL OF LATIN AMERICAN DANCE COSTUMES, BARRY MANILOW DANCED AND SANG, REVIVING THE FRENETIC PERFORMANCES AT THE FAMOUS NEW YORK NIGHT-CLUB OF 30 YEARS AGO CALLED THE "COPACABANA".

TAPE: CUT THREE - COPACABANA (TOTAL TIME 4:15 - USE AT WILL)

ANNCR: THAT WAS BARRY MANILOW WITH "COPACABANA", ONE OF THE CROWD-PLEASING SONGS HE PERFORMED RECENTLY DURING HIS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT HELD AT THE OUTDOOR MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

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